

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-26 (cancelled)

27. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube, the surface of which carries covalently bound reactive and/or activable functional groups which are homogeneously distributed on said surface, said functionalized carbon nanotube being substantially intact and soluble in organic and/or aqueous solvents.

28. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27, wherein said carbon nanotube is a single-walled (SWNT) or a multi-walled carbon nanotube (MWNT).

29. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 28, wherein the organic solvents are selected from a group comprising dimethylformamide, dichloromethane, chloroform, acetonitrile, dimethylsulfoxide, methanol, ethanol, toluene, isopropanol, 1,2-dichloroethane, N-methylpyrrolidone, tetrahydrofuran.

30. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 29, of following general formula:  $[C_n] - X_m$   
wherein:

$C_n$  are surface carbons of a substantially cylindrical carbon nanotube of substantially constant diameter, said diameter being from about 0.5 to about 50 nm, in

particular from about 0.5 to 5 nm for SWNTs and from about 20 to about 50 nm for MWNTs,

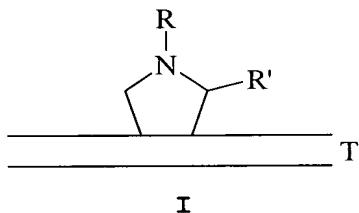
X is a functional group,

n is an integer from about  $3.10^3$  to about  $3.10^6$ ,

m is an integer from about  $0.001n$  to about  $0.1n$ ,

there are from about  $2.10^{-11}$  moles to about  $2.10^{-9}$  moles of X functional groups per  $\text{cm}^2$  of carbon nanotube surface.

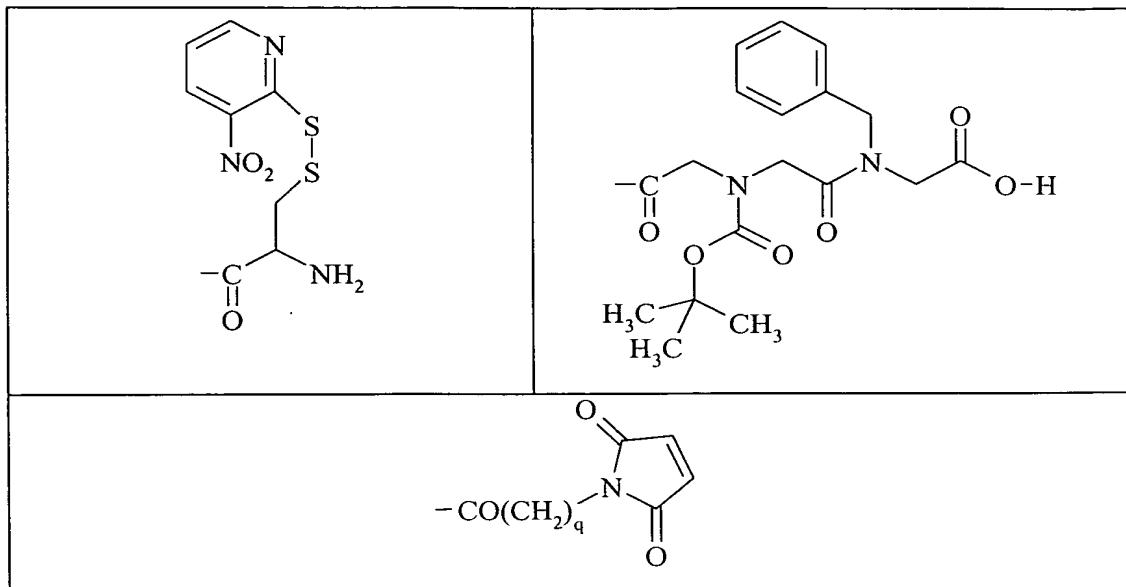
31. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 30, wherein X is a pyrrolidine ring, of the following general formula (I):



wherein T represents a carbon nanotube, and independently from each other R and R' represent -H or a group of formula  $-M-Y-(Z)_a-(P)_b$ , wherein independently from each other a and b represent 0 or 1, provided R and R' cannot simultaneously represent H, and:

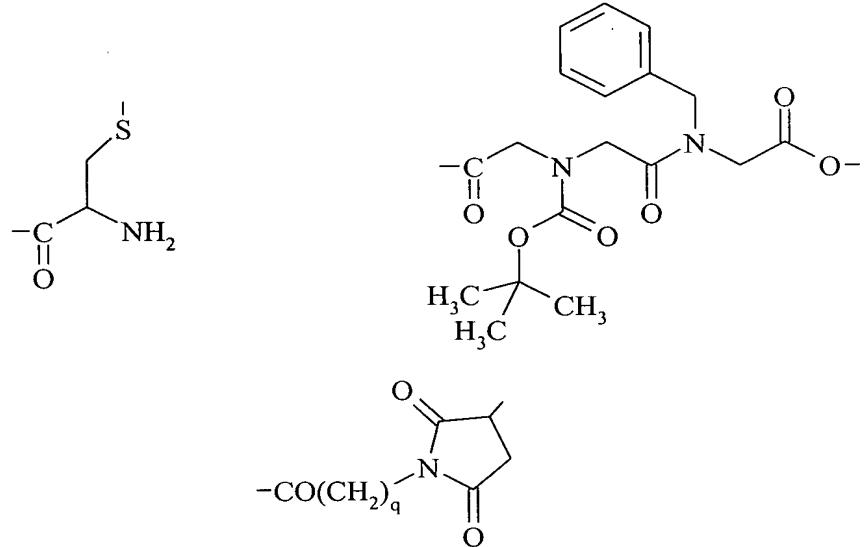
- M is a spacer group from about 1 to about 100 atoms, such as a group selected from the list comprising  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$  or  $-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_r-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ , wherein r is an integer from 1 to 20;
- Y is a reactive group when a=b=0, such as a group selected from the list comprising  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{COOH}$ ,  $-\text{SH}$ ,  $-\text{CHO}$ , a ketone such as  $-\text{COCH}_3$ , an azide or a halide; or derived from a reactive group, when a or b is different from 0, such as a group selected from the list comprising  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{NH}-$ ,  $-\text{COO}-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CC}_k\text{H}_{2k+1}=$ , wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular  $-\text{CCH}_3=$ , or  $-\text{CHC}_k\text{H}_{2k+1}-$ , wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular  $-\text{CHCH}_3-$ ;

- Z is a linker group, liable to be linked to a P group, and if need be to release said P group, such as a group of one of the following formulae when a=1 and b=0:



wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10;

or of one of the corresponding following formulae when a=1 and b=1:

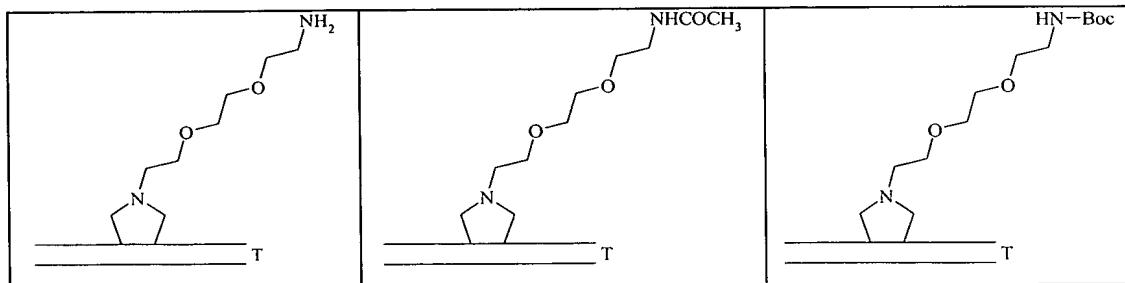


wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10;

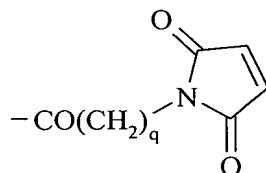
- P is an effective group allowing spectroscopic detection of said functionalized carbon nanotube, such as a fluorophore, such as FITC, or an active molecule, liable to induce a biological effect, such as an amino acid, a peptide, a pseudopeptide, a protein, such as an enzyme or an antibody, a nucleic acid, a carbohydrate, or a drug.

if appropriate at least one of Y, Z, or P groups, can be substituted by a capping group, such as  $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}-$  (acetyl), methyl, or ethyl, or a protecting group such as methyl, ethyl, benzyl, *tert*-butyl, trityl, 3-nitro-2-pyridylsulfenyl, *tert*-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc), fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl (Fmoc), benzylcarbonyl, trimethylsilylethyloxycarbonyl, phtalimide, dimethylacetal, diethylacetal or, 1,3-dioxolane.

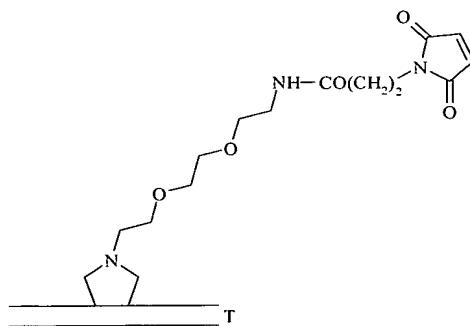
32. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 31, wherein  $a=b=0$  and Y is a reactive group selected from the list comprising -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, -SH, -CHO, a ketone, such as -COCH<sub>3</sub>, an azide, or a halide, in particular -NH<sub>2</sub>, said functionalized carbon nanotube being, if appropriate, substituted by a capping or a protecting group, in particular a Boc or acetyl group, and being for instance a functionalized carbon nanotube of one of the following formulae:



33. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 31, wherein a=1 and b=0, Y is derived from a reactive group and selected from the list comprising -O-, -NH-, -COO-, -S-, -CH=, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>=, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CCH<sub>3</sub>=, or -CHC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>-, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CHCH<sub>3</sub>-, and Z represents in particular the group of the following formula:

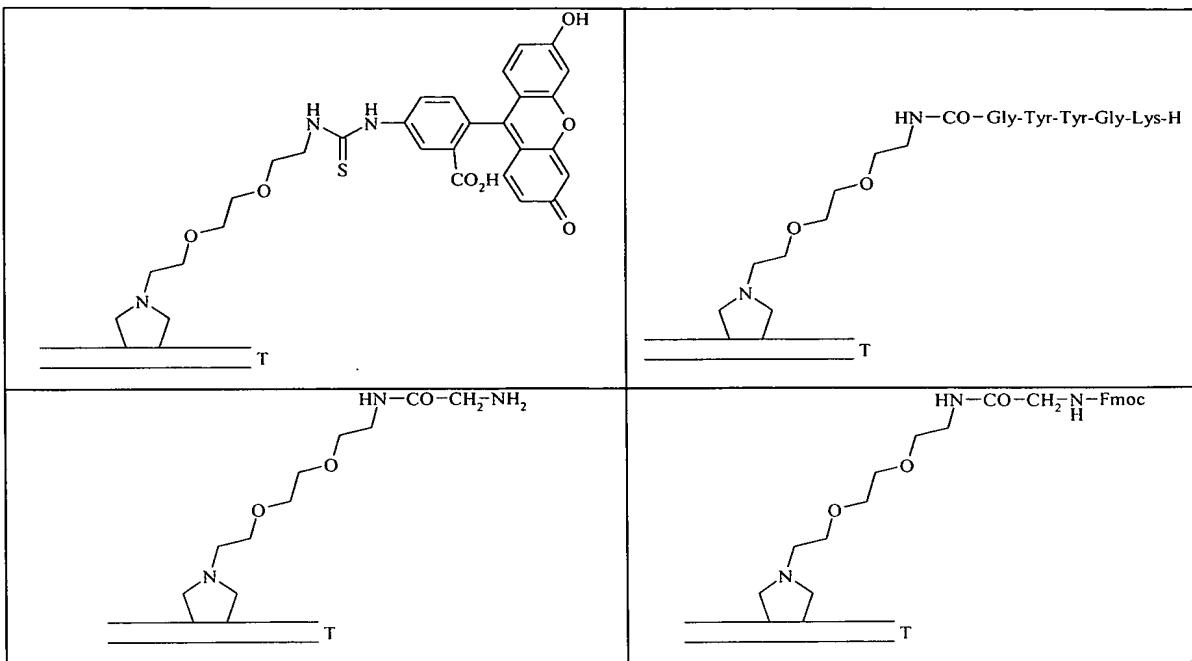


wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10, said functionalized carbon nanotube being if appropriate substituted by a protecting group being for instance the functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula:

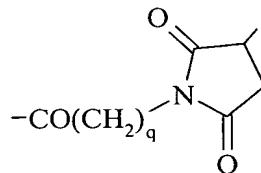


34. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 31, wherein a=0 and b=1, Y is derived from a reactive group and selected from the list comprising -O-, -NH-, -COO-, -S-, -CH=, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>=, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CCH<sub>3</sub>=, or -CHC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>-, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CHCH<sub>3</sub>-, and P is an effective group or an active molecule, in particular FITC, an amino acid, such as glycine, or a peptide, such as the peptide H-Lys-Gly-Tyr-Tyr-Gly-OH, said functionalized carbon nanotube being if appropriate substituted by a protecting group, such

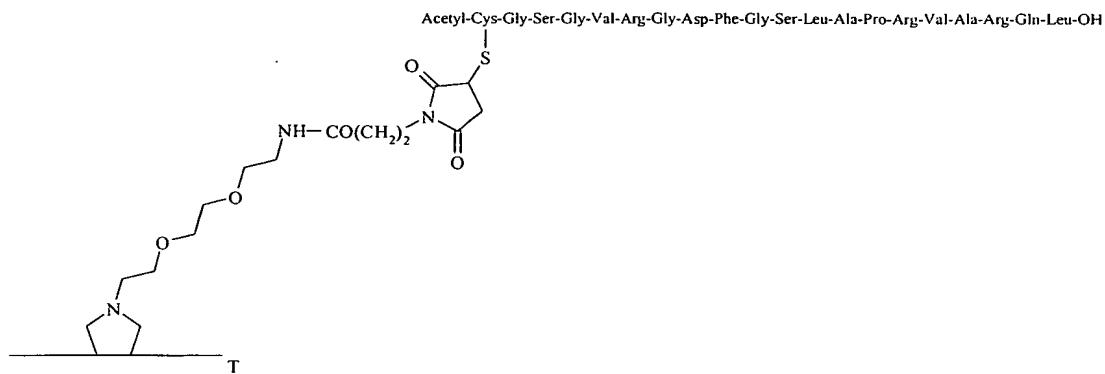
as Fmoc, and being for instance a functionalized carbon nanotube of one of the following formulae:



35. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 31, wherein a=1 and b=1, Y is derived from a reactive group and selected from the list comprising -O-, -NH-, -COO-, -S-, -CH=, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>=, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CCH<sub>3</sub>=, or -CHC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>-, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CHCH<sub>3</sub>-, Z represents in particular the group of the following formula:

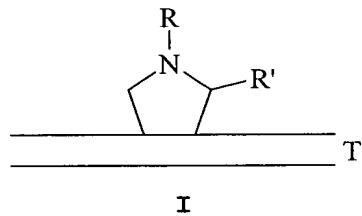


wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10, and P is a peptide, such as the peptide Acetyl-Cys-Gly-Ser-Gly-Val-Arg-Gly-Asp-Phe-Gly-Ser-Leu-Ala-Pro-Arg-Val-Ala-Arg-Gln-Leu-OH, said functionalized carbon nanotube being if appropriate substituted by a protecting group, being for instance the functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula:



36. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 34, wherein P is a peptide or a protein, said peptide or protein comprising in particular a B cell epitope or a T cell epitope, such as a T helper epitope or a T cytotoxic epitope, or a mixture thereof.

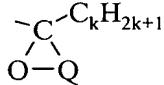
37. (new) A process for preparing a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula I:

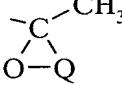


wherein T represents a carbon nanotube and independently from each other R and R' represent -H or a group of formula -M-Y, provided R and R' cannot simultaneously represent H, wherein:

- -M- is a spacer group from about 1 to about 100 atoms, such as a group selected from the list comprising - $(CH_2)_r-$  or  $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_r-CH_2-CH_2-$ , wherein r is an integer from 1 to 20;
- -Y is a reactive group, such as a group selected from the list comprising, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, -SH, -CHO, a ketone such as -COCH<sub>3</sub>, an azide, a halide, if

appropriate protected, such as  $-O-Q$ ,  $-NH-Q$ ,  $-COO-Q$ ,  $-$

$S-Q$ ,  $-CH(OQ)_2$ , 

wherein  $k$  is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular 

wherein  $Q$  is a protecting group or forms a protecting group with the adjacent atoms to which it is linked;

said process comprising the following step:

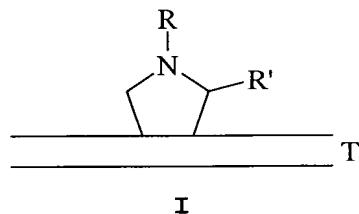
- adding, to a carbon nanotube, the compounds  $R'-CHO$  and  $R-NH-CHR''-COOR'''$  by a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition, wherein:

- $R$  and  $R'$  are as defined above;
- $R''$  is  $-H$  or an amino acid side-chain;
- $R'''$  is  $-H$ , an alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a  $(CH_2CH_2O)_t-CH_3$  group, wherein  $t$  is an integer from 1 to 20, or an aromatic group;

to obtain a functionnalized carbon nanotube of formula I, if appropriate protected;

- if necessary, deprotecting the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, to obtain an unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I.

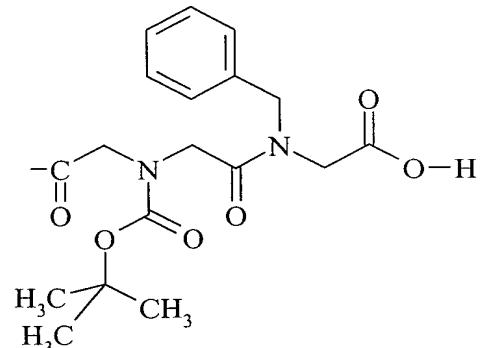
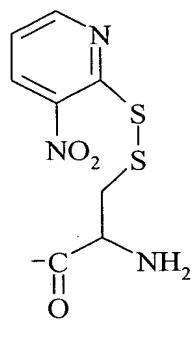
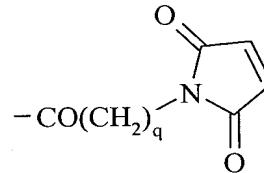
38. (new) A process for preparing a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula I:

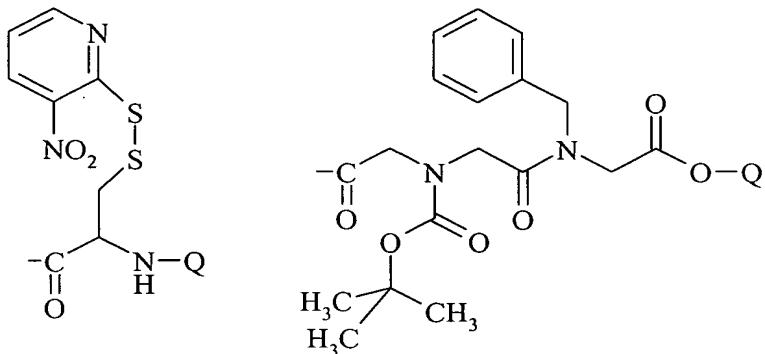


wherein  $T$  represents a carbon nanotube and independently from each other  $R$  and  $R'$  represent  $-H$  or a group of formula

-M-Y-Z, provided R and R' cannot simultaneously represent -H, wherein:

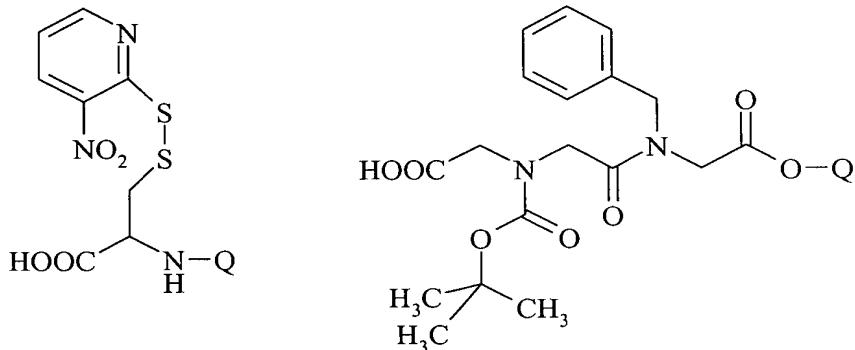
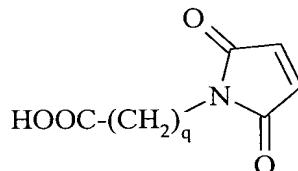
- -M- is a spacer group from about 1 to about 100 atoms, such as a group selected from the list comprising - $(CH_2)_r-$  or  $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_r-CH_2-CH_2-$ , wherein r is an integer from 1 to 20;
- -Y- is a group derived from a reactive group, such as a group selected from the list comprising, -O-, -NH-, -COO-, -S-, -CH=, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>=, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CCH<sub>3</sub>=, or -CHC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>-, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CHCH<sub>3</sub>-;
- -Z is a linker group, liable to be linked to a P group, and if need be to release said P group, if appropriate protected by a capping or a protecting group -Q, such as a group of one of the following formulae:





wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10;  
said process comprising the following steps:

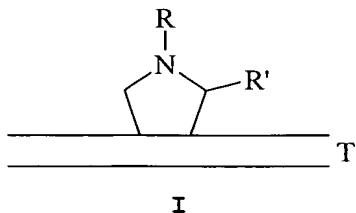
- adding to a unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I according to claim 37 a linker group of formula Z, if appropriate protected by a capping or a protecting group -Q, such as a group of one of the following formulae:



wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10;  
to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, if appropriate protected;

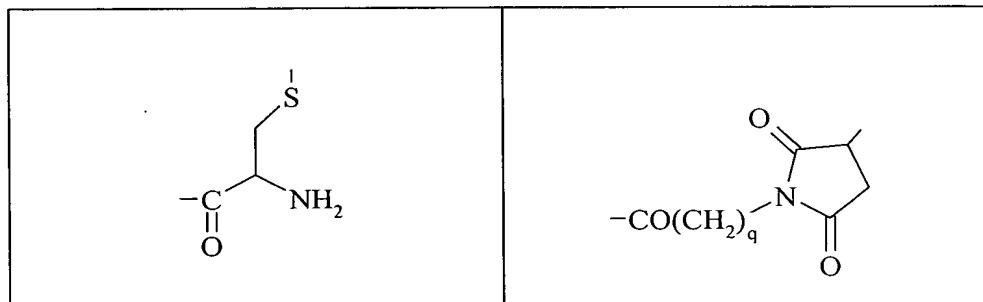
- if necessary, deprotecting the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, to obtain an unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I.

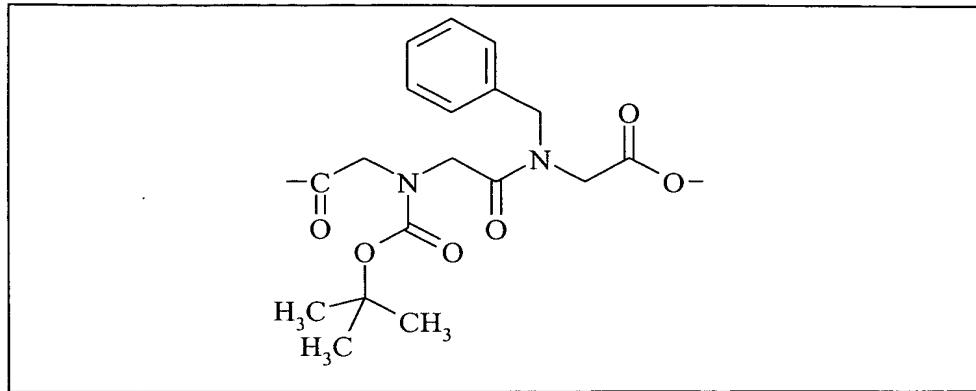
39. (new) A process for preparing a functionalized nanotube of the following formula I:



wherein T represents a carbon nanotube and independently from each other R and R' represent -H or a group of formula -M-Y-Z-P or of formula -M-Y-P, provided R and R' cannot simultaneously represent -H, wherein:

- -M- is a spacer group from about 1 to about 100 atoms, such as a group selected from the list comprising - $(CH_2)_r-$  or  $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_r-CH_2-CH_2-$ , wherein r is an integer from 1 to 20;
- -Y- is a group derived from a reactive group, such as a group selected from the list comprising, -O-, -NH-, -COO-, -S-, -CH=, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>=, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CCH<sub>3</sub>=, or -CHC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>-, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CHCH<sub>3</sub>-;
- -Z- is a linker group, liable to be linked to a P group, and if need be to release said P group, such as a group of one of the following formulae:

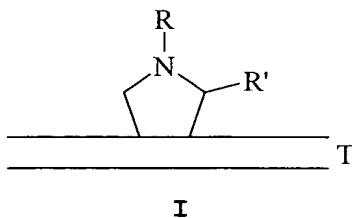




wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10;

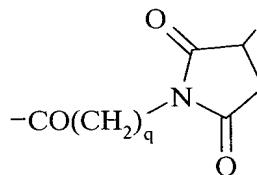
- -P is an effective group allowing spectroscopic detection of said functionalized carbon nanotube, such as a fluorophore, such as FITC, or an active molecule, liable to induce a biological effect, if appropriate protected, such as an amino acid, a peptide, a pseudopeptide, a protein, such as an enzyme or an antibody, a nucleic acid, a carbohydrate, or a drug; said process comprising the following steps:
  - adding to an unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I according to claim 37, an effective group or an active molecule of formula P, if appropriate protected, such as a fluorophore, such as FITC, an amino acid, a peptide, a pseudopeptide, a protein, such as an enzyme or an antibody, a nucleic acid, a carbohydrate, or a drug, or adding to an unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, a group of formula Z-P, if appropriate protected, to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, if appropriate protected;
  - if necessary, deprotecting the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, to obtain an unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I.

40. (new) A process for preparing a peptide or protein functionalized carbon nanotube, of the following formula I:



wherein T represents a carbon nanotube and independently from each other R and R' represent H or a group of formula -M-Y-P, or of formula -M-Y-Z, provided R and R' cannot simultaneously represent -H, wherein:

- -M- is a spacer group from about 1 to about 100 atoms, such as a group selected from the list comprising - $(CH_2)_r-$  or  $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_r-CH_2-CH_2-$ , wherein r is an integer from 1 to 20;
- -Y- is a group derived from a reactive group, such as a group selected from the list comprising, -O-, -NH-, -COO-, -S-, -CH=, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>=, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CCH<sub>3</sub>=, or -CHC<sub>k</sub>H<sub>2k+1</sub>-, wherein k is an integer from 1 to 10, in particular -CHCH<sub>3</sub>-;
- -Z- is a linker group, in particular a group of the following formula:



wherein q is an integer from 1 to 10;

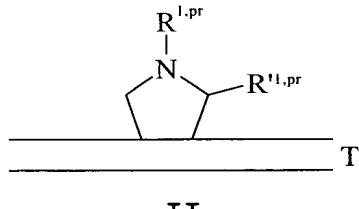
- -P is a peptide, in particular of following formula: - $[OC-CHA_i-NH]_t-H$ , wherein -A<sub>i</sub> is an amino acid side-chain, i is an integer from 1 to t and t is an integer from 1 to 150, advantageously from 1 to 50;

said process comprising the following steps:

- adding to a functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I, according to claim 37, a protected amino acid of the following formula:

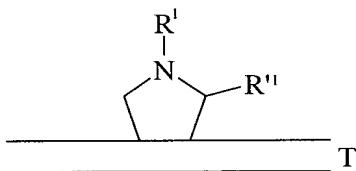


wherein  $-A_i$  is as defined above and  $-Q$  is a protecting group to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula II:



wherein independently from each other  $R^{1,pr}$  and  $R'^{1,pr}$  represent  $-H$  or a group of formula  $-M-Y-OC-CHA_i-NH-Q$ , or of formula  $-M-Y-Z-OC-CHA_i-NH-Q$ , wherein  $-M-$ ,  $-Y-$ ,  $-Z-$ ,  $-A_i$  and  $-Q$  are as defined above;

- deprotecting the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula II to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula III:

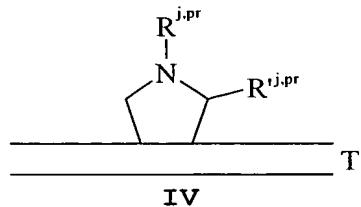


wherein independently from each other  $R^1$  and  $R'^1$  represent  $-H$  or a group of formula  $-M-Y-OC-CHA_i-NH_2$ , or of formula  $-M-Y-Z-OC-CHA_i-NH_2$ , wherein  $-M-$ ,  $-Y-$ ,  $-Z-$ , and  $-A_i$  are as defined above;

- adding to the functionalized carbon nanotube obtained at the preceding step a protected amino acid of the following formula:

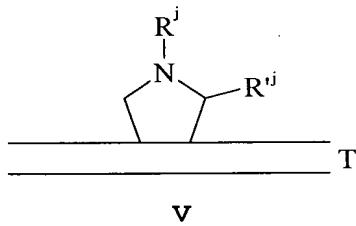


wherein  $-A_i$  is as defined above and  $-Q$  is a protecting group to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula IV:



wherein independently from each other  $R^{j,pr}$  and  $R'^{j,pr}$  represent  $-H$  or a group of formula  $-M-Y-[OC-CHA_i-NH]_j-Q$ , or of formula  $-M-Y-Z-[OC-CHA_i-NH]_j-Q$ , wherein  $-M-$ ,  $-Y-$ ,  $-Z-$ ,  $-A_i$  and  $-Q$  are as defined above, and  $j$  is an integer from 2 to  $t$ ;

- deprotecting the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula IV to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula V:



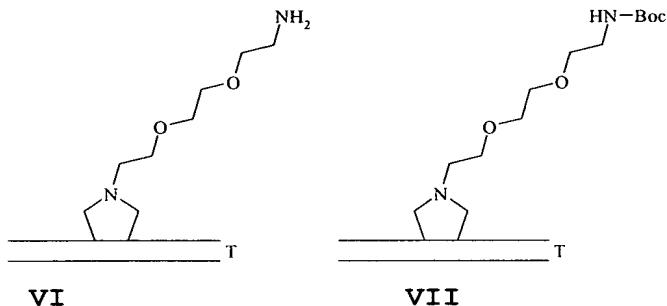
wherein independently from each other  $R^j$  and  $R'^j$  represent  $-H$  or a group of formula  $-M-Y-[OC-CHA_i-NH]_j-H$ , or of formula  $M-Y-Z-[OC-CHA_i-NH]_j-H$ , wherein  $-M-$ ,  $-Y-$ ,  $-Z-$ , and  $-A_i$  are as defined above, and  $j$  is an integer from 2 to  $t$ ;

- repeating the last two steps  $t-1$  times to obtain a peptide or protein functionalized carbon nanotube of formula I.

41. (new) A process according to claim 38, wherein  $-Q$  is a capping group, such as  $CH_3CO-$  (acetyl), methyl, or ethyl, or a protecting group, such as a group selected from the list comprising methyl, ethyl, benzyl, *tert*-butyl, trityl, 3-nitro-

2-pyridylsulfonyl, *tert*-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc), fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl (Fmoc), benzylcarbonyl, trimethylsilylethyloxycarbonyl, phtalimide, or ethyleneoxy.

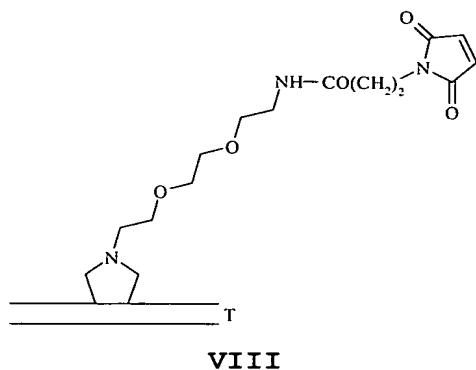
42. (new) A process for preparing a functionalized carbon nanotube of one of the following formulae VI and VII:



wherein T represents a carbon nanotube and Boc represents tert-butyloxycarbonyl, said process comprising the following steps:

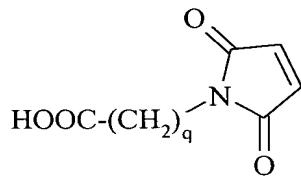
- adding, to a carbon nanotube, the compounds  $(CH_2O)_n$  (paraformaldehyde) and Boc-NH- $(CH_2-CH_2-O)_2-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CH_2-COOH$  by a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition, to obtain a protected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula VII;
- if necessary, deprotecting the protected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula VII, to obtain an unprotected functionalized carbon nanotube of formula VI.

43. (new) A process for preparing a functionalized carbon nanotube of the following formula VIII:



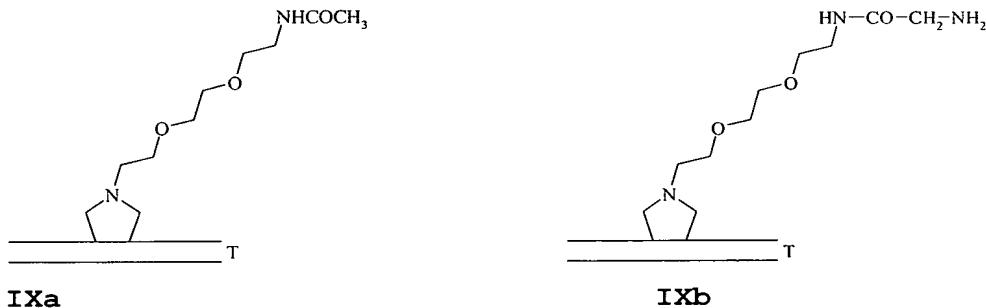
wherein T represents a carbon nanotube, said process comprising the following step:

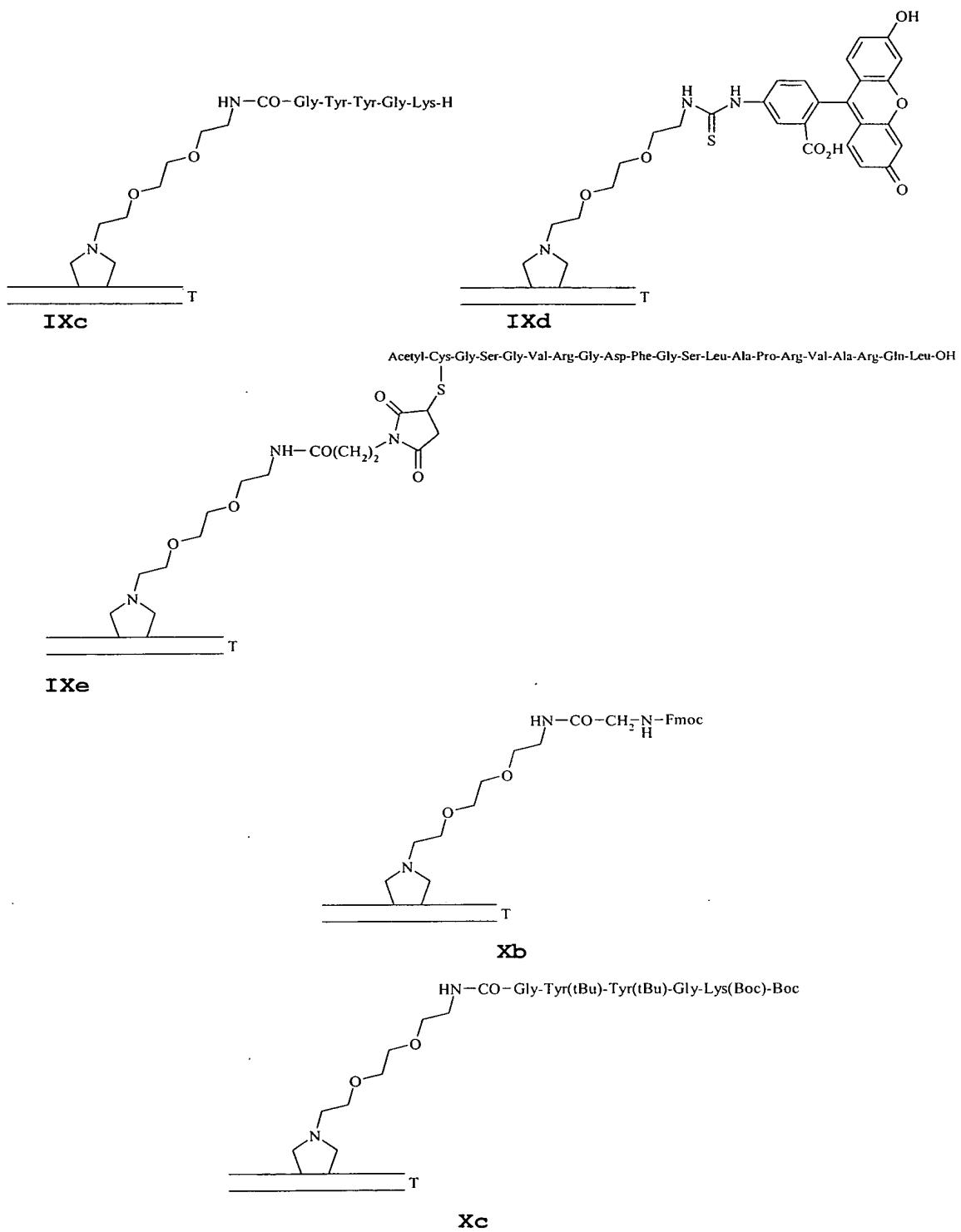
- adding, to a carbon nanotube of formula VI according to claim 42, a compound of the following formula:



to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of formula VIII.

44. (new) A process for preparing a functionalized carbon nanotube of one of the following formulae IXa, IXb, IXc, IXd, IXe, Xb and Xc:





wherein T represents a carbon nanotube, Fmoc represents fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl, tBu represents tert-butyl and

Boc represents tert-butyloxycarbonyl, said process comprising the following steps:

- adding,
  - either to a functionalized carbon nanotube of formula VI according to claim 42, a group chosen among: CH<sub>3</sub>-COOH, Fmoc-Gly-OH, Boc-Lys(Boc)-Gly-Tyr(tBu)-Tyr(tBu)-Gly-OH, or FITC,
  - or to a functionalized carbon nanotube of formula VIII, the following group, Acetyl-Cys-Gly-Ser-Gly-Val-Arg-Gly-Asp-Phe-Gly-Ser-Leu-Ala-Pro-Arg-Val-Ala-Arg-Gln-Leu-OH,
- to obtain a functionalized carbon nanotube of respective formula IXa, Xb, Xc, IXd or IXe;
- if necessary, deprotecting the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula Xb or Xc to obtain respectively the functionalized carbon nanotube of formula IXb or IXc.

45. (new) A functionalized carbon nanotube such as obtained by the process of claim 37.

46. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active substance at least one functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, such as a liposome, a cyclodextrin, a microparticle, a nanoparticle, or a cell penetrating peptide.

47. (new) A method of transport of pharmaceutically active molecules comprising the use of a functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27.

48. (new) A method of delivery of drugs, in particular of intracellular delivery of drugs, comprising the use of an

appropriate amount of a functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27.

49. (new) A method of preparation of an immunogenic composition intended to provide an immunological protection to the individual to whom it has been administrated, comprising the use of an appropriate amount of a functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27.

50. (new) A method for the treatment or the prophylaxis of cancer, autoimmune or infectious diseases, comprising the administration of an appropriate amount of a functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27.

51. (new) A method of preparation of functionalized surfaces such as plastic or glass surfaces comprising the use of a functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27.

52. (new) A method of preparation of electrochemical biosensors comprising the use of a functionalized carbon nanotube according to claim 27.